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Israel Bars 10 Najah Students from Campus

Israeli military authorities have barred 10 Najah University students from entering campus over the past three months without specifying any reasons for their actions. The latest order was imposed on Nabil Burhan, a fourth-year commerce student. Burhan, a resident of Arrabeh in the Jenin district, has been forbidden to enter the Nablus campus for six months beginning June 23.

Dr Sa'eb Erakat, Director of Public Relations at Najah, denounced the Israeli measures and termed them "a prelude to the implementation of military order 854" which gives the Israeli military administration the right to restrict academic freedom in the occupied territories in innumerable ways. Erakat added that the measures "are in line with the new practices the Israeli authorities are implementing against Palestinian universities in the occupied territories." He explained that these "new practices" are an alternative to closing

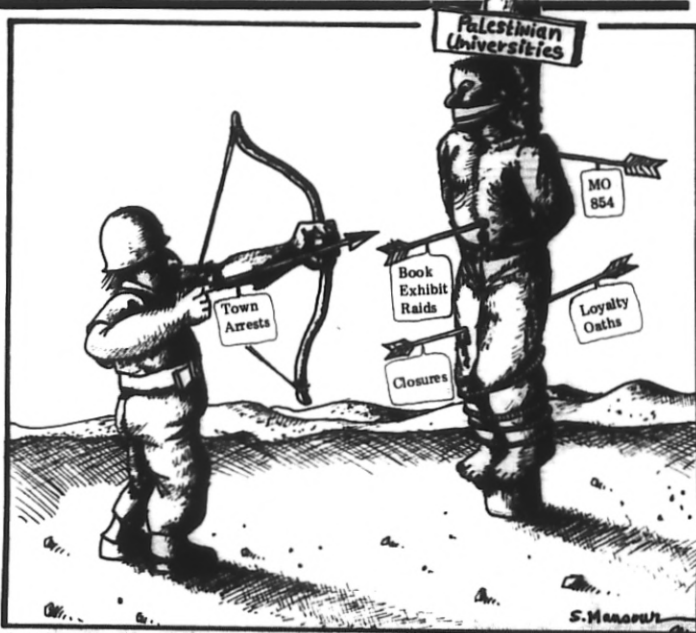
down the universities for long periods, which the Israelis are discovering does not produce the desired result — namely, obliterating Palestinian nationalism on campuses.

Erakat also said the Israelis are using this "new technique" as a tool of intimidation against the students and the administration to prevent them from nationalist activity.

In addition to Burhan, other students recently placed under some form of restriction include:

- * Amin Maqboul, from Nablus, a College of Arts student. He was placed under town arrest in Nablus May 8 and also prevented from entering campus for six months. Maqboul previously served 10 years in prison on security charges.

- * Tayssir Nassrallah from Balata refugee camp near Nablus, a fourth-year commerce student. In April military barred him from entering campus for six months.



- * Abdullah Daoud from Balata camp, a fourth-year commerce student. Forbidden to enter campus beginning May 20 for six months.
- * Ahmad Salhoub from Dura in the Hebron district, a fourth-year commerce student. Placed under town arrest in Dura for six

months beginning in March, effectively preventing him from attending classes at the Nablus-based university.

- * Ghassan Attill from Attill village

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Military Block Khalil's Trip to Nairobi



Samiha Khalil

Samiha Khalil, one of the leading Palestinian women in the occupied territories, has been denied permission to travel to the UN-sponsored Conference on Women's Rights scheduled to start in Nairobi, Kenya July 9.

Khalil, head of the al-Bireh based *In'ash al Ura* (Family Rehabilitation Society) applied a month ago for the *laissez passe* (travel document) which West Bank residents need to travel outside the country. Last week Khalil's request was refused. Khalil's attorney, Raja Shehadeh, has since written to the military administration's legal adviser asking for an explanation for the refusal. Shehadeh told *Al Fajr* that he has asked the legal adviser for a ruling on the issue. Shehadeh also said that he informed the Israeli authorities that Khalil received an official invitation from the UN conference to go to Nairobi. Khalil has never attended any of the previous UN conferences on women.

According to Shehadeh, the authorities have no official

order banning Khalil from traveling this time. "It is just a matter of routine. Her name is on a list at the local interior department office and her requests keep getting rejected automatically." Shehadeh complained that it is impossible to legally challenge this practice. "There is no time limit or reason provided for placing her name on the list," he said. Hundreds of Palestinian activists are on such lists and they are thus not allowed to travel outside the area.

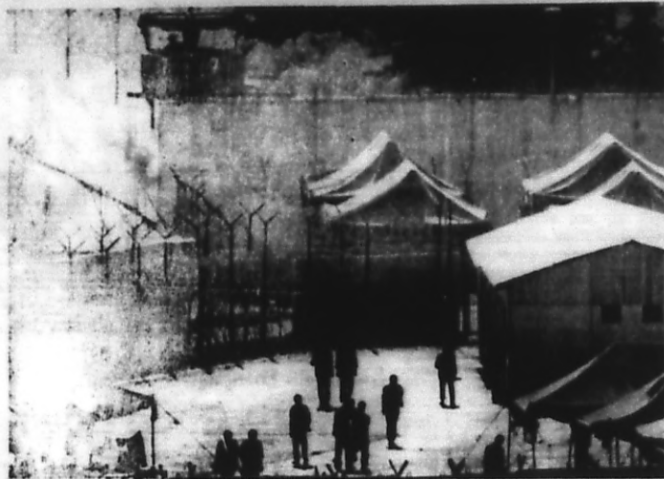
Dr Nitza Shapira Libai, the Israeli prime minister's Adviser on Women, told *Al Fajr* that "all women should be able to attend the Nairobi conference." She refused to comment specifically

on Khalil's case saying that she doesn't know all the details. "But if she would ask for my help and I am convinced that she is seriously interested in the advancement of the status of women, I would personally write to the Israeli defence minister and ask for an explanation," she said.

Samiha Khalil was placed under town arrest for three consecutive years between 1980-1983. The Israelis lifted the restriction after Khalil's name was listed in an Amnesty International report. She has been prevented many times from leaving the West Bank to visit her sons who were detained by the Jordanian authorities.

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Israel's Atlit Prison where over 700 Lebanese are held.

After Face Saving Formula Israel to Accept Hijackers' Demands

Israel is expected to release the remaining 735 Shi'ite prisoners held in the Israeli prison of Atlit. This was indicated by Israeli officials in the wake of Shi'ite Amal leader Nabih Berri's offer June 26 to move the 39 American hostages to neutral territory, possibly the French or Swiss embassy in Beirut, until all Shi'ite prisoners are released. The 39 Americans were taken hostage June 14 when Shi'ite gunmen attacked a TWA flight on its way from Rome from Cairo via Athens.

Berri announced his proposal to move the American hostages to neutral ground shortly after he ordered the release of Jimmy Palmer June 26. Palmer apparently suffers from a heart condition. During a press conference following Palmer's release, Berri reiterated his earlier statement that the hostages will not be handed over to the US until all the Shi'ite demands are met. He added, however, that if the French or Swiss embassy guarantee that the hostages will not leave Lebanon until Israel releases the Shi'ite prisoners then he will arrange to have them transferred. The Shi'ites are also demanding that US navy ships leave the Lebanese coast.

Israeli officials termed Berri's offer a "breakthrough" and indicated that they are considering when to release the Shi'ite prisoners. Israeli Prime

Minister Shimon Peres has reportedly spoken to French officials and received a message from the French government on the affair. An earlier report that Israel was to release 70 more prisoners June 27 in response to Berri's offer was denied by Israeli officials.

Israel released 31 of the Lebanese Shi'ites June 23 in a move officials claimed was unrelated to the TWA hijack. Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin announced that Israel released the 31 because "an Israeli tribunal had found them not guilty of any wrongdoing." He said, "Interrogations determined that they had not done anything violent against the Israeli army." He added that Israel would release more prisoners in accordance with Israeli legal procedures and in light of the security situation in south Lebanon, but without regard to the TWA hijack. For the last five months, the Israeli army has held the 766 Shi'ites in Israel in violation of the Fourth Geneva convention. The move was condemned by most countries including the US. Several of the detainees are reportedly senior citizens, teenagers and women who were not involved in any attacks against Israeli troops.

Nabih Berri who has been acting as a mediator between the Shi'ite militias and the US gov-

ernment earlier demanded that US navy ships which appeared off the Lebanese coast early in the week be moved outside firing range before he would consider the release of the hostages. His demand followed indications by US officials that they were considering a military option to free the hostages.

Commenting on his new demand, Berri told reporters June 24 that he made his demands "in defence of Lebanon" and not in the name of the hijackers who originally seized the TWA plane June 14.

US officials have also warned that they are considering blockading the Lebanese coast and forcefully closing off the Beirut airport to block all goods and services from entering and leaving the country, in the hope that Lebanese political and business leaders would pressure the Shi'ites into releasing the hostages. White House Spokesperson Larry Speakes said June 25 that the airport blockade option, to be carried out with international cooperation or by military means, would be intended to "deny the terrorists a safe haven as well as to bring pressure on Lebanese political and commercial leaders to use influence on the Shi'ites." Speakes refused to comment on American news reports that his government was considering freezing Lebanese assets in the US.

Meanwhile, the 39 American hostages who are being held at several secret locations in Beirut were visited by two Red Cross workers June 24. The two workers declined to comment on the hostages' condition in keeping with Red Cross policy. They will provide the US government and the hostages' families with a full report on their visit. One of the workers who is a doctor advised Berri to release Jimmy Palmer.

Attacks on Israeli Targets Continue Israelis Claim 'Cells' Are Behind Bombing

Israeli troops rounded up several Arab residents June 24 following the explosion of a small explosive charge planted at a bus stop in the Neve Ya'akov settlement north of Jerusalem. There were several other attacks against Israeli targets in the occupied territories last week.

The explosion in Neve Ya'akov occurred in the evening. A home-made explosive device consisting of match heads and gunpowder was detonated when a seven-year-old boy from the settlement stepped on it. The boy was reportedly seriously injured. Israeli troops and policemen arrived on the scene, closed down the area, and rounded up all Arab residents who happened to be in the vicinity. Israeli police say that there were two other similar explosions last week, at the Ramot and French Hill settlements, both near Jerusalem.

In other incidents, a molotov cocktail bottle was thrown at an Israeli patrol as it drove on the main Deir al-Balah-Khan Yunis road in the Gaza Strip. Israel Radio said there were no casualties. Nervous Israeli soldiers opened fire in all directions disrupting traffic. Additional Israeli soldiers rushed to

the scene following the incident and searched the area. There was no report of any arrests.

One day earlier, a molotov cocktail was thrown at an Israeli military jeep as it drove by Nasser Hospital in Khan Yunis in the Gaza Strip. Israeli troops also searched the area and arrested a number of youths for questioning.

In the wake of increased attacks against Israeli targets over the last two weeks, Israeli military sources disclosed that they suspect several clandestine military cells are operating in the occupied territories. A military official said these cells operate between Hebron, Bethlehem, and Qalqilya. Israeli journalists quoted the source as saying that the army believes these cells have obtained arms and ammunition from Israeli military camps. He also revealed that a weapons cache was uncovered three weeks ago in the Bethlehem area.

The Jerusalem Post reported June 24 that armed attacks have also increased in the Golan Heights in recent weeks. The paper said that Israeli troops have discovered a number of mines installed on roads leading to Jewish settlements in the Israeli occupied Heights.



Policemen and bomb squads checking the site of an explosion near the settlement of French Hill.

Israelis Bar

Continued from page 1

in the Tulkarm district, a third-year commerce student. As of May 27, placed under town arrest in his home village for six months. * Ali Rajoub from Dura, a fourth-year commerce student. As of May 27, placed under town arrest in Dura for six months.

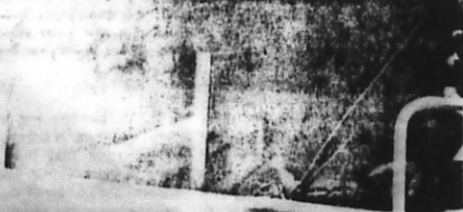
* Saleh Salhoub from Dura, a first-year commerce student. As of May 27, barred from entering Najah campus for six months. Salhoub, however, can travel elsewhere in the West Bank.

* Ghassan Halaweh from Nablus, a fourth-year commerce student. As of June 22, forbidden to enter campus for six months.

In addition to the 10 students who are barred from entering campus, the Israeli military has 12 Najah students under arrest. According to Dr Enakat, none of the arrested students have been charged and no one knows why they are being held. The last student arrested was Issam Rashid who was released from prison only last year after serving a long sentence.

Dr Enakat believes the selection of students for punitive measures is random since many of those affected by the measures are not involved in political activities on campus.

The university has asked Israeli attorney Felicia Langer to take on the cases of all the detained and restricted students. Meanwhile, the students who have been barred from entering campus, including those who live outside Nablus, are receiving special classes at home.



Some of the 31 Lebanese prisoners released by Israel

1200 Qousin Dunums Slated For Confiscation

Palestinian landowners from the village of Qousin, eight kilometres west of Nablus, protested the notice they received June 16 that more than 1200 dunums of their agricultural land were slated for confiscation. They were given 45 days to appeal the decision.

Israeli authorities informed the village mukhtar Mas'oud Yadok and a number of village notables June 16 of their decision to confiscate large tracts of land located in blocks 5, 8 and 9, all in the northwestern part of Qousin. No official reason was given for the confiscation. Village residents, however, suspect that the authorities want to link two settlements — Neve Shomron near Deir Sharaf, and Kadumim on the Nablus-Qalqilya road.

The confiscated land constitutes one-third of the total area of the village. Half of the land is planted with olive trees and the rest with vegetables. The land is the village's only source of income.

Village residents vowed to do their utmost to defend their land, including taking the case to

an Israeli court.

In a related story, Halhoul residents clashed with Israeli settlers last week. The residents were trying to remove a fence which the settlers had earlier erected around Halhoul land which was confiscated three months ago.

The scuffle came after the Israeli High Court issued an order nisi June 13 barring both the landowners and the settlers from working on the land until the court issues a final ruling on its ownership. The court hearing is expected to take place within three months. Neither the settlers nor the landowners complied with the court order. Landowners reportedly tried to reclaim their land and settlers cordoned off the area with barbed wire.

Halhoul sources reported that the settlers fired their guns indiscriminately to force landowners off the plot. They also abducted Halhoul landowners Awwad Hussein Musleh, 65, and his wife who were among the group that tried to remove the settlers' fence, and took them to the nearby Kfar Etzion settle-

ment. The head of the settlement council tried to convince the old man and woman to sell their land. When the couple refused, the settlers summoned Israeli troops who arrested the two and took them to military headquarters. They were later released on bail.

In another case, advocate Bahij Tamimi petitioned the Israeli military Objections Committee asking it to cancel an order issued by the department of absentee property at West Bank military headquarters which declared 1000 dunums land near Hebron to be 'state land.' The land belongs to Tafouh village, Tamimi, acting on behalf of the Committee for the Defence of West Bank Land, said owners of the land in question, members of the Zughayer family, have official documents proving their ownership which date back to the Ottoman period. It is not known when the Objections Committee will discuss the petition. The committee for the Defence of West Bank Land was formed by the Arab lawyers' committee in Jerusalem.



Settlers Suspected

Vandals Chop Down 150 Fruit Trees in Beit Iksa

Unidentified vandals cut down 150 trees owned by Yousef Hababeh and Ahmad Hussein Mashni from the village of Beit Iksa in the Ramallah district June 20. Mohammed Mousa Ahmad, a member of the Beit Iksa village council, told *Al Fajr* he believes the vandals are Israeli settlers from nearby settlements. There are several Jewish settlements in the vicinity of Beit Iksa including Givon, Givat Zeev, and Ramot.

Khalid Hababeh, nephew of the landowner, said he and his uncle discovered the vandalism early the next morning when they came to pick fruit and water the trees. They found that 75 fig trees, 45 plum trees and 30 olive trees had been destroyed. The olive trees, planted about seven years ago, had just been beginning to bear fruit while the plums and figs were more than 25 years old. Hababeh said it will take them years to replant the trees, many of which were sawn off at the trunk. He calculated that the damage was done between 8:00 pm June 20 and 6:00 am the next morning. He said the vandals must have descended on the land, which is about five kilometres northeast of the village, from a nearby forest which the Israelis planted

on confiscated Arab land several years ago. He also estimated that about 10 people with electric saws took part in the destruction which he believed took two hours.

Police summoned by the landowners also assumed the vandals were Jewish settlers. Police think the vandalism was done in retaliation against last month's destruction of 80 trees on land near Beit Iksa cultivated by settlers.

This is the first time that vandalism has occurred on Hababeh and Mashni land. Residents believe that the destruction is only a first step towards confiscation of the land, which is flanked by other areas the Israelis have already confiscated. Ahmad told *Al Fajr* that an Israeli environmental group, the Green Patrols, occasionally bring truck loads of deer and let them loose in the forest and the surrounding hills. He said, "The deer eat the trees and cause more destruction to the cultivated land than locusts." The Palestinian farmers cannot do anything about this since hunting deer is punishable by law.

Damage caused by the destruction is estimated between JD5000-8000, in addition to many years of hard work.

Palestinian Week In San Jose California

Once again the Ramallah community in San Jose has shown that involvement in the American political process can help advance the Palestinian struggle. Tom McEnery, Mayor of the City of San Jose, has proclaimed the week of July 1, 1985 as "Salute to the Accomplishments of Palestinians Week". The Mayor's action was a result of his recent trip to the West Bank town of Ramallah and the efforts of the local Ramallah community.

Past efforts of this community have resulted in the Palestinian flag being flown over the San Jose convention center (1979) and a "Day of Concern" unanimously approved by the San Jose City Council in 1982 for the victims of the massacres of Sabra and Chatil.

WHEREAS: A just and lasting peace in the Middle East is a desire of all Americans; and

WHEREAS: Democracy and the right to self determination are the cornerstones of the American way of life; and

WHEREAS: The Palestinian issue is one of the questions key to solving the Middle East conflict; and

WHEREAS: We are sympathetic to the needs of the Palestinian people and hope that they may have an opportunity to live in peace; and

WHEREAS: The American Federation of Ramallah, Palestine, the largest Palestinian-American organization in the United States, is holding its annual convention the week of July 1, 1985; and

WHEREAS: This Federation has long been committed to a just and lasting peace in the Middle East in which all nations of the region can live safely within secure borders; and

WHEREAS: The Ramallah Club of San Jose is an active member of this Federation and respected citizens of San Jose; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Thomas McEnery, Mayor of the City of San Jose, do hereby proclaim the week of July 1, 1985 as

SALUTE TO THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF PALESTINIANS in the City of San Jose, California.

(END)

San Jose, The fourteenth largest city in the United States with a population of over 625,000, is located at the southern tip of the San Francisco Bay. Mayor McEnery, during a recent visit to Jerusalem, also visited the West Bank and talked to some residents there.

AL FAJR staff congratulate Nimr Idwan and Afifeh Najjar on their wedding, and wish them a long and happy life together.

Water Supplies Cut off in Dura

Residents of Dura town (population 30,000) in the Hebron district complained June 24 that they had been without water since the beginning of June. Despite promises from the Israeli-run municipality of Hebron, which supplies water to Dura, water has not yet been restored.

Dura residents said that their faucets have been dry since the Hebron municipality water pumps at al-Fawwar artesian wells broke down early this month. Their repeated complaints to the Hebron and Dura municipalities, both run by Israeli appointed committees, were fruitless. Salim Abu Hlayel, a Dura resident said that residents were

using water from some wells and buying water from water tanks owned by local investors.

The Israeli mayor of Hebron, Zamir Shemesh, told *Al Fajr* that water was cut off for four days only. He claimed that two days after the water was cut off, the municipality began installing a new water pump. He added that water was restored on June 26.

This, however, was not verified by Dura residents. One resident, said that there were rumours water supplies would be restored the evening of the 26th, but they were not certain. Residents also denied Shemesh's story that water supplies were cut off for only four days.

Army Closes 2 Nablus Streets

Israeli military authorities closed down two streets in Nablus June 23 as a punishment for molotov cocktail attacks against Israeli troops.

Sources in Nablus, which is the second largest city in the occupied West Bank after East Jerusalem, said that a large number of Israeli soldiers closed down the city centre on Sunday night and blocked two small alleyways connecting Faisal street, the main street in the city, and al-Anbia street with walls made of fast-drying concrete. By the next morning, the walls were dry and indestructible. Residents are now compelled to walk a long distance to get from one side of the city

to another.

The measure, according to the Israelis, was instigated by two petrol bomb attacks against Israeli military vehicles last week. Neither of the incidents caused any damage or injury to the soldiers.

The elected mayor of Nablus, Bassam Shaka'a, described the measure as "arbitrary." He added that he considers the action as part of the ongoing Israeli policy to punish Palestinian residents collectively. Shaka'a, who was deposed as mayor of Nablus in 1982 for refusing to deal with the "civil administration," pointed out that several other streets have pre-

viously been blocked off in Nablus. A total of five streets are closed off by cement walls and one entrance to the old city is closed with a huge metal gate. "Despite these policies which clearly violate international law, the Western countries continue to regard Israel as a democratic state and to express concern for its security and safety - the security of the aggressors," Shaka'a said.

Closing streets or entrances is a frequently employed Israeli tactic which has affected almost every refugee camp in the West Bank. Nablus, however, is the only city where streets are blocked off in this manner.



French Sports Federation team

WB Teams to Host French Soccer Team

The Hebron Youth Athletic Club administration (HYAC) this week completed preparations to receive an athletic delegation from France. The 26 member delegation from the French Sports Federation "FSGT" is scheduled to arrive in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip on June 27 for a 10-day visit to play soccer matches with Palestinian West Bank and Gaza soccer teams. The Athletic delegation, which represents the Saint-Etienne, Amey, Drancy, and Vienne clubs in France, will play four soccer games with the Gaza Athletic club, the Hittin club team in Nablus, al-Hilal club in Jerusalem, and the Hebron Youth Athletic club in Hebron.

Jala, Jericho, Nazareth, and Tiberias. Trophies, medals, flags, T-Shirts, sport suits, coloured glass and embroidered dresses are among the mementos that the HYAC will give the guests. Five local institutions and seven individuals have also contributed to covering the estimated JD7500, expenses for hosting the French team.

Nader Muraka, a member of the HYAC administrative committee, said that the FSGT upholds the principle that sports are for all nations. They particularly care about teams which do not have the opportunity to play in international matches like Palestinian and black South African teams; he said.

The French sports delegation was invited by the HYAC which initiated contacts with French sports teams in 1983. The HYAC played four matches on April 6, 1984 and won three of them.

The agenda prepared for the French group by the HYAC includes trips to factories, farms, institutions and charitable societies in Gaza, Nablus, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Beit Sahour, Beit

The HYAC, which has 1500 members, received open invitations to play soccer matches in Italy, Ireland, Denmark, Portugal, and Morocco in the future. The HYAC, which has won many local championships, is one of the leading clubs in the West Bank. The HYAC will also participate next July in a championship tournament with teams from various Arab countries.

Head of Nablus Chamber of Commerce Quits in Protest

Whopping Tax Bills Hit East Jerusalem, Nablus Merchants

Several East Jerusalem merchants have recently received notices from the Israeli tax department ordering them to pay millions of Israeli shekels in taxes. In Nablus, the commercial hub of the West Bank, the head of the City Chamber of Commerce resigned June 25 to protest the heavy taxes.

Fayez Tawil, owner of the Fayez photography studio in East Jerusalem, paid more than IS\$ million in taxes and fines June 22. The bill originated from a 1983 tax bill for IS\$40,000 which Tawil refused to pay because it did not agree with his own records. Tawil told *Al Fajr* that he keeps meticulous accounts and pays his taxes promptly whenever they are due. The Israelis, he said, often accuse Arab businessmen of cheating by keeping scaled down account books. In such cases, they make their own estimate of a shop owner's profits and bill him accordingly. The basis on which such estimates are made are not known. In Tawil's case, non-payment of the 1983 surcharge meant a rapid accumulation of fines and possible legal proceedings. The amount he actually paid, IS\$112,753, would have doubled had he not paid it within 40 days because it was linked to cost of living increases.

A souvenir shop in the Jerusalem Ambassador Hotel was also harassed by tax officials. Fourteen tax officials and policemen broke into the souvenir shop owned by Wahib Rissas June 25 intending to confiscate merchandise and hold it as col-

lateral until Rissas paid a tax bill totalling IS\$21 million.

According to hotel employees who were at the scene, Israeli police and tax officials arrived at the small shop inside the hotel when the owner was not present and broke the lock. They entered the shop and confiscated goods valued at around US\$5,000, the employees added. The merchandise included films, video tapes, T-shirts, cameras and many other souvenir goods.

Fayez Barakat, director of the Jerusalem Arab Chamber of Commerce, told *Al Fajr* he lodged an official complaint about the raid with the Israeli tax department and asked for an urgent meeting with the head of the department. He said the Chamber of Commerce asked the tax department to detail its method of estimating commercial taxes. Barakat said he does not see that the present tax system has any "basis."

In addition to heavy taxes and fines, East Jerusalem shop owners have received tax forms, all in Hebrew, requiring them to itemise every piece of merchandise in their shops. Merchants complain that the forms are very complicated and require professional accountants to fill them out. The merchants also protested that the new forms are going to lead to more taxes and in the end force them to fold.

One Jerusalem shopkeeper who preferred to remain anonymous told *Al Fajr* the new tax campaign "is undoubtedly intended to pressure the Arab residents of the city to close

their businesses and migrate." He said it is unfair to ask Arab shops to pay taxes equal to their West Jerusalem counterparts even though Arab shops do not have one tenth the business. "This indicates the true intention of the Israeli government," he added. The shopkeeper called the whole Israeli tax system imposed on Arabs unjust and unfair.

Meanwhile in the West Bank city of Nablus, the city's Chamber of Commerce was shaken this week when its head, Dhafir al-Masri resigned June 25 in protest against the heavy taxes imposed on the city's merchants. Nablus shop owners received orders from the military government to pay taxes for the coming year in advance. The taxes range from JD5000-15,000 (US\$12,500-37,000) apiece. If the shopkeepers do not pay the taxes by July 1, tax officials threatened their shops will be closed.

Masri resigned also in protest against the heavy costs of travelling across the bridges to Jordan. It costs JD26 for a visitor to get a permit to cross the bridges and enter the occupied territories for a summer visit. The number of relatives of Palestinians living in the occupied territories who come on visits was low this year in comparison to previous years, mainly due to the high cost of travel permits and heavy customs fees levied on arrival. Some travellers have complained that the Israeli bridge authorities impose customs duties on personal clothing and jewellery, something which they have not done in the past. They also require children over four years of age to obtain special travel permits. In the past, children under 16 were included in their parents' travel documents.

Al-Masri submitted copies of his resignation to the Israeli military coordinator for economic affairs in the West Bank and to the Nablus military governor. The Nablus Chamber of Commerce will meet next week to discuss al-Masri's resignation and the deteriorating economic situation in the city.

Rabin Calls For New Deportation Law

Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin assured Jewish settler leaders in the West Bank and Gaza June 23 that his ministry is considering deporting Palestinian residents of the occupied territories who take part in anti-Israeli activity.

Speaking to settler leaders Rabin said existing Israeli laws are not sufficient to implement rapid deportations, so the Knesset will have to draft new laws. Rabin referred to proceedings from a previous case brought before the Israeli High Court in 1979 to support his argument that new laws are needed. That case was brought before the court by Hebron and Halhoul mayors Fahd Qawasm and Mohammed Mihem after they

were expelled from the country. The court issued an order allowing them to return to the occupied territories to appear in front of the High Court. The military government won the case, which lasted about six months, and the two mayors left for the last time in June 1980.

Rabin, who is considered the most hawkish Labour cabinet member, proposed that more town arrests be imposed on anti-Israel activists and that the punishment of administrative detention - imprisonment without trial or charges for an unlimited period - be revived. Administrative detention was unofficially cancelled after 1978 due to intensive international pressure, and town arrests were instituted instead.



Eight million shekel tax bill

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A Palestinian Response to Peres' 'Peace Plan'

by Daoud Kuttab

The five point "peace" plan presented by Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres to the Israeli Knesset June 10 is not a serious plan for a just and durable peace in the Middle East. Its purpose — to kill time and to sidestep efforts by Jordan and the PLO to establish the proper basis and context for peaceful negotiations.

Shimon Peres, who continuously calls on Arabs to enter peaceful negotiations with Israel without pre-conditions, has himself set down strict pre-conditions for such talks. First, Peres has indirectly asked the US government not to meet with genuine Palestinian representatives; or even to recognise the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. PLO chairman Yasser Arafat has clearly indicated that this right, which is not specified in the text of 242, is the only obstacle to PLO recognition of UN Resolution 242. Arafat has unambiguously stated a readiness on the PLO's part to accept this controversial UN resolution if the United States recognises the Palestinian people's right to determine their own future.

The Israeli Prime Minister has also ruled out — both for Israel and for the US — dealing with any member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation or any of its institutions. This condition reflects the Israeli desire to avoid reality. The Palestinian people have proved with

most anxious to avoid, Peres' plan stipulates that Palestinian delegates to the final negotiations would be chosen from the occupied territories only. He thus insists on solving only the problem of the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza. But what of the Palestinians in refugee camps in Lebanon who live under nightmarish conditions of insecurity and fear? What about the Palestinians in Kuwait who are refused work permits and residency but have no passport to fly elsewhere? What about the Palestinians in other parts of the world, who are insisting on their national identity and demanding to return to their homes. Their rights and aspirations too, must be addressed.

The Arab countries have carefully called for an international conference as a context for negotiations. Israel agreed to a similar conference in 1976 in Geneva despite the fact that the Soviet Union had no diplomatic relations with Israel at that time. Today Israel and the US refuse to attend an international conference on the weak pretext that the Soviet Union is not constructive in its pursuit for peace. Are the US and Israel, who caused so much bloodshed in Lebanon, any better? Israel and the US want to keep the Soviets out so that they can guarantee a US-sponsored pre-Israeli solution that will not necessitate total withdrawal from all areas occupied in 1967 as the UN Security Council has stipulated.

Peres' old friend Victor Shmiltov from the MAPAM party was the first to reject Peres' plan. He told his friend from the Knesset rostrum that by rejecting the Jordanian-US initiative, that Peres is losing a golden opportunity for peace.

The Israeli peace plan has not coincided with any goodwill gestures towards the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza. Contrary to what Israeli officials would have you believe, Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza have not felt any changes in the "quality of life" since the takeover of the supposedly "dovish" Peres government. The freeze the Likud imposed on municipal elections in the West Bank is still in effect. Major Palestinian cities are still run by Israeli mayors contrary to local laws. Salaries for government-paid civil servants have dropped in real value from the equivalent of US\$400 to less than US\$200 a month. Unemployment in the West Bank and Gaza has reached over 20 percent and the West Bank and Gaza economy as a whole has completely disintegrated as a result of Israel's policy of "economic annexation." The human rights record of the Peres-led government is not one of a country seeking peace. Palestinian universities are still closed down for the flimsiest of reasons, travel bans and other collective punishments like curfews and arbitrary business closures continue to characterise Israeli rule.

Last month the Israeli military government gave extremist Jewish settlers carte blanche to terrorise the Palestinian population following the Red Cross-sponsored and Israeli government-approved prisoner exchange. Palestinian ex-prisoners were fired upon, their homes surrounded by gun toting settlers, their cars wantonly kicked and smashed. Wanted signs were posted everywhere and ex-prisoners' families and communities were physically threatened and psychologically pressured to encourage the ex-prisoners to leave the country.

I point to all the above in order to show that peace cannot be accomplished by eloquent press statements and carefully worded diplomatic programmes.

The fact of the matter is that keeping the West Bank and Gaza is more important to most Israelis than achieving peace in the area.

The Annual Whitewash

The Israelis are trying very hard to give their 18-year-old occupation of the West Bank and Gaza a good reputation. Last week they came out with an 89-page annual report on their activities in the occupied territories. The report, which was published in English for the first time, attempts to rejuvenate the idea, now long forgotten, that the Israeli occupation is a 'liberal' one and that it is better for the Palestinians than independence.

A close reading reveals that the 1984 report, dubbed *The Civil Administration Judea and Samaria: Annual Report*, contains a series of misleading and improperly presented facts. But the major problem with the report is in what it fails to say rather than in what it says. To quote a few examples: straight streets put up in Dheisheh and Kalanda refugee camps are portrayed as improvements; in fact, lighting the streets adjacent to refugee camps was done to facilitate army or settler searches in the area. On higher education, the report simply describes various institutions in the occupied territories without detailing the number of times these institutions were closed and for how long, the number of days students were forbidden to enter their university premises by army roadblocks or the number of Palestinian students and faculty placed under town arrest.

This week it was revealed that 10 Najah University students were barred from attending their classes for six months or more by town arrests and other restriction orders. The Israelis claim they have initiated a new policy of singling out "active" students and putting them under town arrest in order to avoid closing down universities.

Our experience with the Israelis is that this policy, which restricts Palestinian activists without any due process of law, is an additional arbitrary political punishment. We agree with Najah University officials that the Israelis are punishing Palestinian students in addition, not as an alternative, to closing universities.

The report notes that the spokesman for the Civil Administration has emphasised the "policy of improving the quality of life." No Palestinian in the occupied territories has seen any evidence of such an improvement, despite the fact that Israeli spokesmen refer to it at every opportunity.

What we deduce from the 1984 report on the eighteenth year of Israeli occupation is that ruling any people against their will is always a dirty business, no matter how nicely it is portrayed.



Shimon Peres: Unconditional Conditions

their lives that the PLO is their sole legitimate representative. Even the United States is slowly realising after the debacle in Lebanon that only legitimate representatives of all parties concerned can deliver on agreements reached at the negotiating table. A number of Israelis are also slowly realising this fact in the wake of their Lebanese misadventure.

Peres and his Likud partners do not seem to grasp that in a state of war, it is generally enemies who make peace with one another. Israel made peace with Egypt, long viewed the most militant and nationalistic of Arab States. Why, then, does Israel persist in its obsessive refusal to talk to the PLO? Because talking to the PLO means recognition of the entire Palestinian problem, the problem of a people expelled from their land. Such recognition then requires redressing the wrong that was done to them — ergo, admitting that one's country committed a grave injustice. It also means giving up the West Bank and Gaza in toto to resolve this problem in toto, not finding some "interim" arrangement that facilitates continued control over the land. But this is exactly what Peres — not to mention Likud hawks — are

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The TWA Hijack

Legitimate Grievance, Regretful Tactic

by Bahar al-Ashhab

The hijack of a TWA plane and the abduction of 40 Americans by Lebanese Shi'ites June 13 showed that it is possible to hit the mightiest power on earth — America — and win. Considering the aggressive role Israel plays in the area and the unconditional blessings it receives from the US, the hijacking also showed that 'terrorism' is still an option in the Middle East — perhaps in certain cases, with much regret, the only option.

The TWA hijacking should at best serve as yet another lesson to Israel and the US. It should trigger a quest for answers among the general public in the two states as to why they are the most popular targets for 'terrorism' in this area. The US should draw its own conclusions and go on to consider what it can do to change the Arab attitude so the area might become safer for Ameri-

can citizens and institutions.

The Shi'ites in Lebanon, a poor and neglected religious majority, have become a power to reckon with. Once they obtained the mighty power of machine guns and ammunition, they moved swiftly to make their voices heard and to erase their 'ghetto' reality. They perceive the US as a 'great Satan' that supported Israel's 1982 invasion and planted the car bomb in West Beirut last March, which alone killed hundreds of civilians and threatened Shi'ite religious leaders. The Shi'ites can be ruthless and a proper example of the notion that 'war creates insanity.' Their attacks on Palestinian camps which resulted in the massacre of over 600 civilians cannot be excused. Because of these massacres, the once 'great heroes' and 'courageous defenders of South Lebanon' have become 'terrorists' and 'air pirates' and have lost all the sympathy and moral support Arabs everywhere gave them.

The Shi'ites, of course, hoped that by attacking American property and

forcing Israel to comply with their demands, they would regain the moral status they once had. Some argue that the Syrians were involved in the ordeal in order to discredit the latest peace moves that threatened to lead to a settlement that would overlook Syria.

Putting the purpose aside, the hijacking in fact worsened the perpetrators' image throughout the world and among Palestinians in the occupied territories, whose memories of slain comrades in the Beirut camps are still fresh. For the first time, these Palestinians may have felt some sympathy for the American position when the American hostages were placed in their minds alongside Palestinian hostages in the camps.

No one can doubt, however, that the Shi'ites are right to demand the release of 731 of their comrades who are held illegally in Israeli jails. [They are also right to demand that the US remove its navy forces from the Lebanese coast.] Israel holds the Shi'ite prisoners in violation not only of international law but also of common sense. Israel argues that it had wanted to release them but only when the situation in south Lebanon became favourable. Some argue that Israel wanted to release them as a gesture of goodwill to the Shi'ites who have a strategic role in the 'security zone' separating Israel and Palestinians in Lebanon. What Israel has hopefully learned is that it cannot play politics with hundreds of lives and do as it pleases without paying a price.

The hijacking, which is said to have put a dent in US-Israeli relations, has ironically served Israeli interests in at least one way. It offered Israel a strong future argument that it has the key to resolving an American dilemma; that this little 'oasis of civilisation' can save American prestige and lives threatened in a 'desert of chaos and savagery.' It would be unfortunate if Americans fell into such a trap and forgot that it was their unlimited support for Israel that won them the hatred and enmity of people in this area in the first place.

The ordeal also benefits Israeli policy makers in that it overshadowed the latest Middle East peace moves designed to break the stalemate and give the Palestinians some say in their future. Israel will surely argue that Arabs are not to be trusted since they still consider 'terrorism' a viable option. Israel pretended that it could not take a hint and

is waiting for an official US request to release the 731 Shi'ites, thus doing the US government a favour by saving American lives and at the same time telling the world that it does not comply with 'terrorism.'

The US, on the other hand, demonstrating as always naivete in its dealings with the Middle East, argued publicly that it will not comply with 'terrorist' demands but hinted privately to Israel that it should release the Shi'ites. The US also sent a fleet of ships loaded with marine units to the Lebanese coast and hinted that a military option to release the hostages was in the works. To that an Amal official replied: "When Israel invaded Lebanon, they threw over half a million bombs on us. A few thousand more will not hurt us a bit."

It is most regretful, however, that a group like the Shi'ites could not get their point across or obtain their just rights except through terrorist means. Perhaps if other peaceful and legal methods were available such ordeals would not have to occur. And perhaps innocent people like those TWA passengers would not have to pay for crimes perpetrated by their government and its ally. These people are being held captive in Beirut only because they are citizens of a superpower country that chose to play the role of a 'great Satan' in a region of 'believers,' and because their government chose to ally itself with Israel, which has caused the suffering of millions and the instability of most countries in the region.

Perhaps the US and Israel will learn that their current policies in the region only encourage acts like the TWA hijack. Instead of searching for ways to combat 'terrorism,' they ought to search for ways to reassure the population of this area that other options are available, that international law and common sense can still be applied.

Israel can for once show desire for a just solution for the 37-year-old Palestinian problem its existence caused. The US government can play a sincere role in the area and advocate human rights and democracy in the same manner it does within its own borders instead of supporting oppression and injustice.

The TWA ordeal should not have had to happen. The option of 'terrorism' should be totally eliminated in the Middle Eastern arena. But will Israel and the US ever appreciate that?

Letters

To the editor,

There is a mistake in your April 26 issue in the story under the headline "Kach Forms Old City 'Patrol'." "Kach" means "thus," not "take" or "seize." It is an understandable mistake to make, especially considering the nature of Kahane's group, and the fact that in the Ashkenazi Hebrew accent, the word "thus" sounds exactly like the imperative (second person, masculine) of the verb "to take." The meaning of the name of Kahane's group is clear from the Hebrew spelling. Pronounced correctly, the second person masculine imperative of "to take" would be more accurately transliterated as "qah."

Mark Marshall
Montreal
Canada

To the editor of Al Fajr,

I have seen a feature film "Beyond the Walls" mentioned in your weekly paper. I would like to receive more information on the film, in terms of the costs, insurance, the distributor, etc. Do you have more information on it? Our campus audience would be delighted to see it.

Sermin Utku
Earlham College
Richmond, IN.

Editor's Note:

Warner Brothers has worldwide distribution rights for the film.

JUNE 28, 1985

Since 1970 when the PLO was forced out of Jordan, the Palestinian people have been dealt more misery than any other people in recent history. A Palestinian intellectual and PLO activist, Shafiq al-Hout, once said that although the Palestinians enjoyed some freedom in Lebanon, it was there they suffered most.

It was in Algiers, during the 16th session of the Palestine National Council (PNC), that Shafiq al-Hout said that Lebanon was the Arab country that loves Palestinians most but also the country that "hates us most." How right was Shafiq, who knows the country and the people of Lebanon extremely well from his experience as PLO representative in Lebanon. Al-Hout was speaking in February 1983 with the Sabra and Shatila massacres on his mind. Nowhere in his wildest dreams did he imagine that less than two years later there would be another expression of "love Lebanese style" for the Palestinians in Lebanon. It was in Lebanon that the Palestinian people came the closest ever to experiencing "self rule" since they were expelled from their homeland, and it was in Lebanon that they were targeted by almost all of the Lebanese communities for atrocities.

Nowhere to Go

When US and other troops sent to Lebanon came under attack, they simply withdrew and went home to their countries. Palestinians have no such option. They initially entered Lebanon due to the circumstances of the 1948 war with Israel, and have since continued to live there and to receive their share of Lebanese violence.

Since the PLO's departure from Lebanon, late in the summer of 1982 at the end of a three-month war waged against them by the Israeli army, the Palestinians in the camps have been victimised by the Israelis and their allies, the Phalangists, the Syrians, and now by some of their Lebanese Shi'ite allies.

Arguments to the effect that Arafat may have instigated all of this are absurd, because those who are shelling the camps and bulldozing the mud homes are not Arafat people. Nothing, absolutely nothing, can justify the atrocities committed against Palestinians in the Beirut camps over the last five weeks.

1982 Revisited

Recent reports coming out of Beirut by *The London Times* describe atrocities against Palestinian men and women, young and old, and patients in hospitals, in a way that reminds one of the Phalangists' behaviour during the 1982 massacre at the same two camps. *The London Times* described one grisly scene: Amal militias lined up about eight young Palestinians and then drove over them with a bulldozer.

Edward Said, Palestinian intellectual and PNC member, drew an analogy between the 1982 events and those occurring now in the camps, not only in what is physically being done to Palestinians there, but also in underlying motives. Speaking in Washington DC at an event arranged by Save Lebanon Incorporated, Said said that in both cases the once oppressed became the oppressors. First Israelis and now Shi'ites "forgot their past of being the victims and have now become the victimisers." The same Palestinians have been at the JUNE 28, 1985



Two Shi'ite militiamen aim their rockets and rifles at Shatila refugee camp from their rooftop vantage point. /AFP Photo.

Palestinians in US, Jordan, Tunisia Afflicted by Beirut Massacres

receiving end of both massacres. Felicia Langer took Said's analysis a step further by calling those who are committing these crimes fascists, just like the Phalangist fascists.

While the world closely followed what the Israelis and their stooges were up to in 1982, the new "fascists," as Langer called them, have been committing their atrocities aided by the "legitimate" army of Lebanon and armed and protected by the Syrian regime — with no outside observers allowed at the scenes of their crimes. Assuming, however, that the world was observing the massacres on TV just as it did when the Israeli army was saturating the same camps and the city, and assuming that the world condemned the attack, Syria — the power behind the scene — would not have paid much attention to world public opinion, just as it did not during the 1980 onslaught on the Syrian city of Hama. Nor would certain factions of the Amal Movement have paid any attention to world public opinion.

Tunis: Obsession with the "Camps War"

The pain and the dilemma Palestinians outside of Beirut are now facing is quite obvious for anyone who cares to see. Unfortunately, not too many people do.

In order to satisfy their hunger for news from Lebanon, Palestinians in Tunis have gone to extreme ends. They purchase short and longwave radios and make many long phone calls from the Maghreb to the Arab East, in addition to trying to grasp anything about the situation from Italian TV. These are but a few of the means worried and anxious Palestinians in Tunis are pursuing in order to keep in touch.

Over *fur*, "breakfast" taken at

AL FAJR — Jerusalem Palestinian Weekly

sunset after a day of fasting during the month of Ramadan, Palestinians gather and talk about their families in Lebanon and about their people's tragic predicament in the camps. What appears to bother them most is the fact that there is nothing they can do to change the situation in Beirut. One becomes convinced that if able Palestinians could join their brothers and sisters in the camps, thousands would happily do so immediately.

On the level of the rank and file, frustration is obvious — not only with the events that are taking place, but also with the leaders' inability to do something to alleviate the situation. Although everyone knows that the leaders are trying their best, considering the circumstances, Palestinians in the street and in PLO offices demand more.

The leaders, on the other hand, are fully and completely preoccupied with the situation in the camps. Journalists waiting to talk to them are told to wait, and wait further, until a few simply give up.

Amman: Pain, Grief, Helplessness

Palestinians in Tunis were pained not knowing enough about the situation in the Beirut camps; in Amman it was the opposite. Palestinians there are close enough to know all that goes on in Beirut, but not near enough to help.

As in Tunis, Palestinians in Amman had only one subject on their minds. As there are more Palestinians in Amman, naturally the effect of the war on the people is more visible and obvious. Taxi drivers talk about it and their radios are continuously tuned in to any station with news broadcasts. Everyone knows the precise time the news is broadcast

on all Middle East stations and no one misses a single newscast. People in restaurants talk only about the war. But the pain is most felt amongst former Palestinian fighters.

One Palestinian activist in a hotel talked about his tragedy with an extremely angry look on his face. Drawing hard on his cigarettes, the young bearded man said that only two days before the fighting broke out in the camps, he gave in to his wife's demand to take their two children to visit her family in Sabra camp. He tried to reach his wife and family for a week, while the fighting over control of Sabra was at its peak before it eventually fell to Amal, all to no avail. Finally he received a phone call from Beirut from a neighbour of his in-laws. The neighbour told him that he saw his mother-in-law fleeing the camp with others, but the young Palestinian fighter's wife and two children were not among them.

Having lived through the violence of Lebanon, the young man was terrified of the prospects that might befall his young family. Some people turn to God in times of hardship — and to God this Palestinian appealed, to save his family from the violence and destructiveness of Lebanon. In his anger, he focused on the Arab leaders who, despite repeated appeals by the PLO leadership to intervene, gave only promises and more promises, just as they had given the Palestinians an even healthier dose of promises during the invasion of Lebanon in 1982.

What really became of the family of this young and articulate Palestinian is hard to guess. But this Palestinian tragedy is, no doubt, one of thousands.

Hope Exhausted

Hoping, said another Palestinian in Amman, has not alleviated the Palestinians' plight, and most likely won't stop it now. Wherever one meets them, Palestinians are demanding some action which would lessen the misery of their brothers, sisters, mothers and fathers.

Tragedies continue to follow the Palestinians, because their conditions and their social as well as political reality set them up as targets for atrocities. Those who argue that the Palestinians bring these tragedies upon themselves are grossly mistaken. It is like saying that European Jewry invited the holocaust, which is obviously not only wrong but also a racist reading of history. No people brings upon itself the suffering and the massacres the Palestinians have been subject to since 1948. ■

West Bank Livestock Farmers Gradually Recoup Post-1967 Losses

by Maher Abukhater

Raising livestock, particularly sheep and goats, has always been an essential source of income for West Bank farmers. The Beduin, for one, rely solely on income generated from raising sheep. Under Jordanian rule (1949-1967), livestock farms in the West Bank flourished and gradually developed to fill Palestinian and Jordanian markets with dairy products. Pasture land was abundant and shepherds freely roamed with their herds in search of food and water. Livestock farms were also becoming more diversified, expanding to include raising cows — a new phenomenon in a farming society that had previously dealt only with sheep and goats.

This national wealth suffered serious setbacks after the 1967 Israeli occupation of the West Bank. The number of livestock — cows, sheep, goats and poultry — declined sharply after 1967. Only this year has the decline begun to taper off.

Between 1967-70, the number of cows declined 34 percent and the stock of sheep and goats dropped by 43 percent. From 1970 to 1979 the decline continued. Locally bred cows, which so far comprise the bulk of available cows, declined by 56 percent. However, during the same period, the number of better

quality milking cows (originally imported from Holland) increased slightly (10.5 percent), but not enough to compensate for the drop in the number of locally bred cows.

The supply of sheep and goats combined went down 43 percent between 1967-1970 and then another 10 percent between 1970-1979. Sheep alone had dropped 28 percent and goats 58 percent by 1970.

Poultry suffered the worst decline. Until 1967, the West Bank was a major supplier of eggs and poultry to Jordan. Between 1967-1970, egg-laying chickens declined more than 70 percent and broiler chickens more than 50 percent. By 1979, the number of chickens had recovered somewhat, but only to 40 percent egg-layers and 50 percent (broilers) of the quantity available before 1967.

From 1979 until the present, the level of livestock has increased slightly — except for poultry, which has continued to drop.

Despite the decreases in the livestock supply, Palestinian farmers have compensated by learning new sophisticated techniques of breeding and raising farm animals to make them more productive. While in the past farmers pri-

marily raised locally bred cows and sheep, they are now investing in higher quality Dutch milking cows known as Dutch cows, as well as more productive sheep and goats.

The farmers focused on locally bred livestock mainly because these animals are hardier and can easily cope with the local environment. The Dutch cows which were brought into the country many years ago, for example, needed time to adjust to Middle East conditions and required close attention and special food to stay alive and produce at maximum levels. By contrast, local cows and sheep manage fine on grass from pastures throughout the country and never need the balanced feed ration the foreign cows and sheep do. It was therefore a lot cheaper and easier to raise local livestock in large quantities in order to fill the local demand for dairy products.

The sharp decline in livestock and poultry has been attributed to several factors, according to Abd al-Rahman Abu Arrafah, an agricultural engineer who specializes in animal productivity. The major factor is economic, followed very closely by Israeli confiscation of pasture land.

After 1967, the economic situation

in the West Bank deteriorated and subsequently became totally dependent on the Israeli economy. As prices went up, farmers were also faced with new competition from Israeli farmers. Israeli farmers are among the most advanced in the world and raising livestock, particularly cows, is one of their major sources of income. There are currently 400,000 milking cows in Israeli farms alone, as compared to a little over 5000 in the West Bank. West Bank markets were flooded with cheaply priced Israeli dairy products and meat when the Arab farms stopped functioning as a result of the war. Israeli farms were also subsidised by their government while the Arab farmers had to rely on themselves. It took the Arab farms many years to recover, and they were never able to return to their pre-1967 levels of production.

To add to the Arab farmer's problems, the Israeli military government in the occupied territories confiscated hundreds of acres of pasture lands. So far, more than 80 percent of pastures have been closed on the pretext of "security." The Beduin, who make up more than 60 percent of livestock farmers in the West Bank, suffered the most from the closures since they feed their sheep exclusively by grazing. Village farmers, on the other hand, started feeding their livestock store-bought fodder instead of relying on hay or open pastures. The use of fodder also enabled farmers to provide balanced nutrition to the Dutch milking cows and increase their productivity.

Livestock in West Bank

	1966	1970	1979	1983
Local Cows	37,600	24,700	10,913	9800
Dutch Cows	N.A.	3880	4291	5664
Sheep	376,700	271,100	235,371	254,000
Goats	389,400	163,100	156,462	160,000
Poultry: Layer	316,400	69,700	126,555	87,500
Poultry: Broiler	8,000,000	3,442,000	3,973,500	1,170,000



French Hill settlement in background: 80 percent of West Bank pastures have been closed on pretext of "security." /JS Photo.

West Bank and Gaza. After the meeting, MK Shulamit Aloni (CRM) told *The Jerusalem Post*: "There will be no development (in the territories) initiated by the Israel government, and no permits will be given for expanding agriculture or industry (there), which may compete with the State of Israel."

According to farm experts, the decline in the number of farm animals and the new techniques Palestinian farmers are using have come to complement each other. As the farmer watched his source of income dwindle, he was searching for ways to increase production to make up for the loss. As a result, demand for high productivity animals increased, mainly for mixed-breed strains of livestock.

Dr Hatem Kamal, director of Veterinary Services in the West Bank, and his deputy director, Dr Mohammed Hassounah explained that modern veterinary assistance for West Bank farmers emphasises quality, not quantity, of livestock. "It does not matter how many cows you have on a farm," Dr Kamal said. "What matters is their productivity." The emphasis on productivity led farmers to breed local livestock with higher quality cows from Holland and to rely on balanced rations of store-bought livestock fodder more than on grass or hay. Veterinary services, like giving animals regular check-ups and vaccinations to prevent outbreaks of disease have also become an important ingredient in improving productivity, according to the veterinarians.

But all efforts to increase productivity will come to naught unless farmers find an efficient way to market their products. There are only three dairy plants in the whole West Bank — Jneidi, ADS and a third private plant in Jericho owned by a local veterinarian, Wahib Tarazi. The Jneidi plant in Hebron opened only three years ago but started marketing this year. Yet Jneidi is not much help for the Palestinian farmer, because it relies on Israeli milk to produce byproducts like white cheese, yoghurt and sour yoghurt (*labaneh*). So does Tarazi's dairy plant in Jericho. The ADS, also known as the Mousa Alami Project, has its own herd of cows from which it makes all its dairy products. Hundreds of Palestinian farmers, small and large-scale, are therefore left on their own to manually produce and



Israeli Green Patrols closing in on Arab-owned sheep.

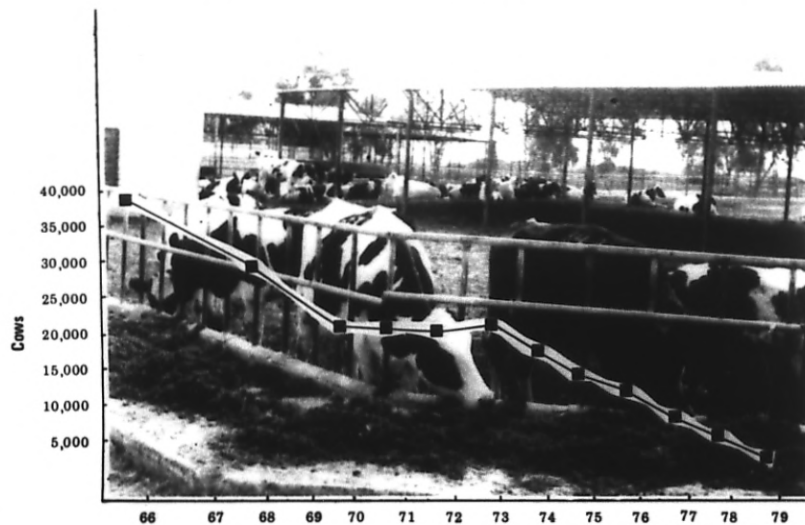
market their products. This leaves them highly vulnerable to spoilage because they lack the transportation facilities to get their products out in time and protect them from the hot and dry environment.

In order to solve this serious problem and to organise West Bank farmers, efforts are underway to set up more farm cooperatives and to construct two modern dairy plants in concentrated farming areas. Abu Arrafah, who is also in charge of West Bank cooperatives, said the cooperatives plan to open plants in the Jerusalem and Nablus areas. The purpose of these plants, he said, is to help farmers manufacture and sell their products efficiently and to prevent contamination or spoilage. The plants are expected to become operative within a year, Abu Arrafah said.

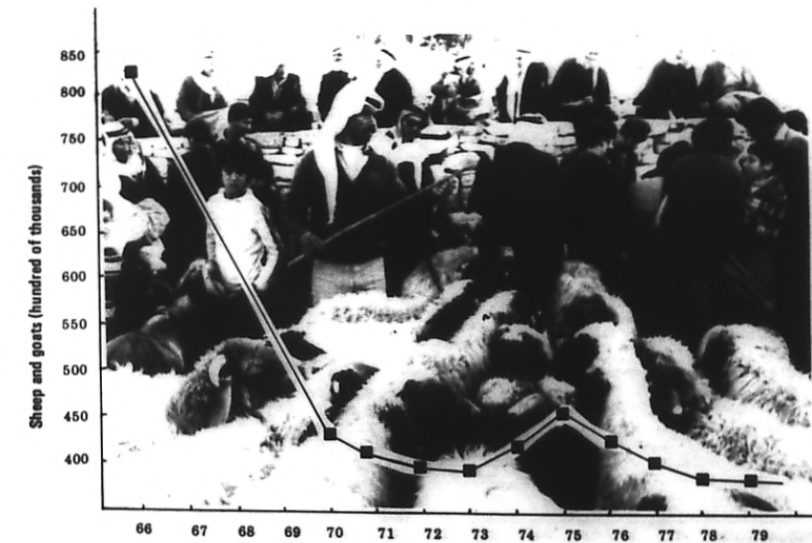
Some farm experts, however, doubt that these plants will be feasible. One expert told *Al Fajr* that transporting the milk from farms scattered throughout the West Bank to a central location many kilometres away requires advanced machinery and lots of money. He said many refrigerated trucks are needed to transport the milk in due time before it spoils. If this problem of transportation is overcome, then manufacturing the milk byproducts will become very easy.

Abu Arrafah said the uneven and scattered distribution of livestock farms has always been a problem for marketing dairy products in the West Bank, in addition to the fact that the Beduin are always on the move, making it hard to track them down. To solve this problem, farmers have begun to set up cooperatives. Within the past two years, 20 animal cooperatives took form in the West Bank. Many have not yet reached maturity and may fold and others are going strong like the Agricultural Engineers Cooperative for highly productive sheep in Jericho, the Poultry Farms Cooperative in Ramallah and the two-year-old Nweimneh Cooperative for Honeybees in the Jordan Valley. Altogether there are eight farm cooperatives for sheep, three for cows, one for bees, three for poultry and the rest a mixture of each. The cooperatives supply members with assistance to improve their farms and help them market their products. They also occasionally build model farms for members.

With the assistance of livestock experts and veterinarians, the farms have improved a great deal over the past three years and quality and productivity of their animals has been raised. If the cooperatives succeed, livestock farms in the West Bank may see better times. ■



(Source: Animal wealth in West Bank Abd Al-Rahman Abu Arrafah 1981)



(Source: Animal wealth in West Bank Abd Al-Rahman Abu Arrafah 1981)

Hussein's visit to Washington at the end of May and the subsequent American endorsement of his "peace initiative" hit Israel like a bombshell — or so we were led to believe. "The Americans Pulled One Over On Us," read *Hadashot's* May 31 banner headline. An Israeli diplomat was quoted as saying that "the American announcements came to us as a total surprise. The Americans didn't even give us a single clue about any change in their position vis-a-vis the issue of an international conference" (*Hadashot*, May 31, 1985).

But was it really a total surprise?

By the middle of June, Yosef Hirsh, a senior columnist for *Ma'ariv* daily, was informing his readers that "it was agreed that in exchange for US readiness to supply the weapons he requested, he — Hussein, would have to publicly declare a state of non-belligerency with Israel. Peres, Shamir and Rabin were informed of this scenario during Secretary of State Shultz's visit to Jerusalem at the beginning of May." Hirsh goes on to say that "the American response to Hussein's declarations in Washington were coordinated in advance with Peres and Shamir" (*Ma'ariv*, June 14, 1985).

Four Responses to the Hussein Initiative

Ze'ev Schiff, military correspondent for HaAretz: "Although Israel's official position at present is stubbornly and consistently against supplying new American arms to Jordan, there is another approach... which claims that American military involvement in the Arab states gives Washington much more influence and indirectly aids in moderating the extreme views of the Arabs. If Washington manages things right, even this dangerous move can indirectly help the peace process in the area. Since Washington is already supplying arms systems to the Arabs, we ought to come to grips with it by way of principled protest and the demand that certain conditions should be met" (*HaAretz*, June 10, 1985).

Uzi Mahmiyani, Al Hamishmar/Arabist: "The Jordanian king doesn't care about the PLO. The organisation interests him about as much as a garlic peel. Hussein's chief interest lies in safeguarding the existence of the Hashemite dynasty and making sure that it [retains] power in an independent, sovereign and strong Jordanian state. Hussein understands that if the Palestinian problem isn't solved on the West Bank, the problem will be solved at his expense. The king is a strategic realist who apprehends the dynamic in Israel: if a deadlock should occur, the Palestinian problem may be solved at Jordan's expense. The king has heard it more than once from Minister Sharon, who said that 'Palestine is Jordan,' and three weeks ago he heard it from a relatively moderate leader, Minister of Defence Yitzhak Rabin, who said that in the long term, the Palestinian problem will be solved at Jordan's expense" (*Al Hamishmar*, June 7, 1985).

Dan Schueftan, Research fellow at Hebrew University's Truman Institute and author of a book entitled The Jordanian Option: "Hussein has been patient over the years, biding his time. The opportunity has come at last to resume the negotiations that his grandfather Abdullah began with the Israelis a generation ago... A legitimate target might be to apply the principle of autonomy, as adumbrated in the Camp David agreement. It would have to be political autonomy, with self-

Hussein's Initiative in the Hebrew Press

by Michael Lowry



government in domestic affairs — not the personal or cultural autonomy envisaged by former premier Menachem Begin" (*The Jerusalem Post*, June 14, 1985).

Silvio Keshet, Yediot Aharonot columnist: "Every time a new peace initiative comes along, we hear the same old empty clichés: They are always 'surprised' by the shift in the American position. And at the same time, 'nothing has changed'... 'It's a public relations gimmick. Hussein (or Mubarak) need aid, they need arms...' "

"They're all PLO, even the moderates in the Palestine National Council. They don't even recognise the state of Israel. Even if they do recognise the state — we won't sit down with them. Who needs their recognition? This is only the first stage. It begins with Nabulus and it ends with Jaffa, Ramle, and Lod. Hussein is about to be toppled. A confederation with Jordan is more dangerous than a Palestinian state. Hussein wants peace because of our consistent position over the years. There are moderate Palestinians on the West

Bank who are not members of the PLO and with whom we can talk." (This is reminiscent of the anti-Semitic mayor of Vienna, Karl Luger — 1893-1897: 'I decide who is a Jew'.)

"All the Palestinian leaders on the West Bank are PLO. The aim of the initiative is to break-up the government and sow dissolution throughout the nation."

"We heard Mubarak, and we heard Shultz. But we didn't hear Hussein or Arafat. And when Arafat says something, you'll hear what Farouk Qaddoumi is saying, what Abu Iyad is saying, and Abu Musa and Abu Jihad are saying. If they renounce terrorism and recognise Israel — it will no longer be the PLO. And if it isn't the PLO, there's no one to talk to." (*Yediot Aharonot*, June 7, 1985.)

Pax Americana

For the majority of Israeli commentators, the "Hussein initiative" was a drama that had a lot to do with Washington, and much less to do with Israel's neighbour to the east — not to mention the hundreds of thousands of Palestinians living in the territories occupied by Israel. "Diplomacy is the police in grand costume," Napoleon once quipped. And in the Middle East, the United States seems intent on calling the diplomatic shots.

Following the Israeli army's failure to impose "a new order in the Middle East," it would appear that the United

States has taken things into its own hands. Hence, the "Hussein initiative," or the "Hussein peace initiative," which on closer examination turns out to be "a deal" — to be struck between the power elites of Israel and Jordan. The United States does not want its client states fighting amongst themselves, especially now that the seeds of war are being sown in Central America.

Israel 1985

By the end of June, the Hussein initiative had been shunted off the front pages of the Israeli press by the "hostage crisis." Peres responded to Hussein's call for an international conference by presenting his own "Five Point Peace Plan." Within a week, the crisis in the government over the "Jordanian option" blew over.

At this juncture, Israel's national unity government appears to have two choices: either call new elections and hope for a decisive swing on the part of the voters, or to continue its holding operation. However, for the next few months, the Israeli government seems ready to choose not to choose.

As regards negotiations between Israel and a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, the times augur a long and drawn-out process of establishing a common denominator for the "peace for territories" equation. However, it is yet unclear whether Israel will opt in or not. Likewise, it is unclear who is offering what to whom.

JUNE 28, 1985

Palestine and Culture



In Wake of Beirut Siege

A Mournful Ramadan in Al-Aqsa's Courtyards

by Said al-Ghazali

This year, inhabitants of the occupied territories uniformly viewed the Muslim end-of-Ramadan holidays, *Id al-Fitr* and *Laylat al-Qadr*, as an inseparable part of what is happening in Lebanon. The month-long massacres at three Palestinian refugee camps in Beirut that started May 19, a day before the Ramadan month of fasting began, left a permanent scar on the collective Palestinian conscience. Every single Palestinian reached the conclusion that he or she is a scapegoat that Arab leaders are out to slaughter to serve their political ends.

The *Id al-Fitr* speech Sheikh Ekrema Sabri delivered at al-Aqsa mosque echoed these sentiments. "It is obvious that all forces of darkness seek to destroy the existence of Palestinians," Ekrema said. People were not in a celebrative mood and many remained at home. Traditional holiday family visits were fewer and more sombre than in previous years. Hosts did not offer the usual sweets to guests and visitors, and most conversations focused on the Amal onslaught. Some comments were superficial but all were charged with emotion. One person remarked: "Ba'athists are not Muslims. They killed us in Tel al-Zaatar [in Lebanon] in 1976 and now they want to finish us." Another asked rhetorically, "Should we live on the moon to save our skins from massacres?" A third predicted that more massacres would soon be committed against Palestinians in refugee camps in Jordan and the West Bank. "The Arab world and Israel want to live without Palestinians," he concluded.

On the last Friday of Ramadan, an occasion which brought about 300,000 worshippers to al-Aqsa, people protested the massacre in their prayers.



Tayseer Zagha

The Jerusalemite Tayseer Zagha (Abu Ramez), known as a hero of the destitute who fears neither the government nor the army, waited for those thousands who prayed on the last Friday of Ramadan to begin slowly moving out of the gates of al-Aqsa mosque. Heavy crowds flocking out of Damascus Gate heard Abu Ramez's roaring voice calling

JUNE 28, 1985



Left: Traditional Ramadan sweets. Above: Damascus Gate as peddlars crowd to sell their goods to holiday visitors/AO Photo.

them to take some *Halqum* sweets to commemorate those Palestinian men, women and children who were killed in the Beirut "war of the camps." He shouted: "O people...read a *safha* [Quran verse] for those who were killed in Lebanon. O people...eat...There is no patient who will remain sick forever. There is no prisoner who will remain in jail forever. God will save the souls of those who fell as martyrs in Sabra, Shatila and Burj al-Barajneh." The crowd halted as many gathered in front of the Jenini sweet shop. Abu Ramez, 37, is a very tall man with wide shoulders, long hair and a plump face. He seemed as happy as a bridegroom when some people hugged him.

Thus events and symbols were connected together in the minds of Palestinians here — the 'orphaned Friday', the 26th night of Ramadan, and the Beirut massacres. The steadfast people performed their religious ceremonies and exerted their utmost effort to protest the continuous daily massacre. When these three things were combined together during the last days of Ramadan, tens of thousands came from all over Palestine to the Old City of Jerusalem and al-Aqsa mosque. The crowd was estimated at 300,000. Vehicles and buses occupied every corner of East Jerusalem.

Abu Ramez, a popular character many Palestinians consider a hero, said that he decided to distribute 500 kilograms of *Halqum* to protest the massacre. "The last Friday of Ramadan and *Laylat al-Qadr* are good opportunities to bang on people's consciences. However," Abu Ramez added, "the massacre continues in Beirut and we have no power to stop it. We can

protest, and it is the hero's duty to warn and incite people against the massacre. He reinforces the symbol of the martyr in people's minds." He was interrupted many times by friends and passersby who thanked him for the sweets.

Abu Ramez, who earns his living making sweets, saves up his profits for just such occasions. "I feel enormously happy giving — I am richer than all the rich," he said. When Fahd al-Qawasmī was assassinated in Amman last December Abu Ramez distributed 300 kilograms of *Ghrebeh* sweets and served coffee to the crowd of mourners. A week after the Sabra and Shatila massacres in 1982, Abu Ramez distributed 200 kilograms of *Kanafi*, a well-known Palestinian sweet.

Abu Ramez, who is unmarried and poor himself, is always feeding the poor and helping the needy. "The hero is a helper, and a courageous person," he said. "When I worked as a fruit-and-vegetable seller, I used to distribute my produce free to the poor. I like to be respected by my own people. When I walk in the streets, most people salute me. If I get sick, Maqassad Hospital offers me free medical treatment. My people and all Palestinian Arabs are my family."

Abu Ramez started these activities after Egyptian President Jamal Abd al-Nasser died in 1970. Nasser is his favourite Arab president. He deems him a faithful leader on a par with the great leader Salah ed-Din al-Ayoubi who liberated Palestine from the Crusaders.

Abu Ramez is not happy this year because the *waqf* authorities did not decorate the town gates. "But a massacre is going on," I argued. "Why don't they feed the poor then?" he replied.

The crowds continued their slow procession out of the Old City — home to the Galilee, Triangle, West Bank and Gaza. That night, about 50,000 commemorated *Laylat al-Qadr*, the night the holy Quran was revealed in the seventh century. On this day, Muslims believe, the gates of heaven open so God can hear the people's demands, and angels descend to bless those who pray that night.

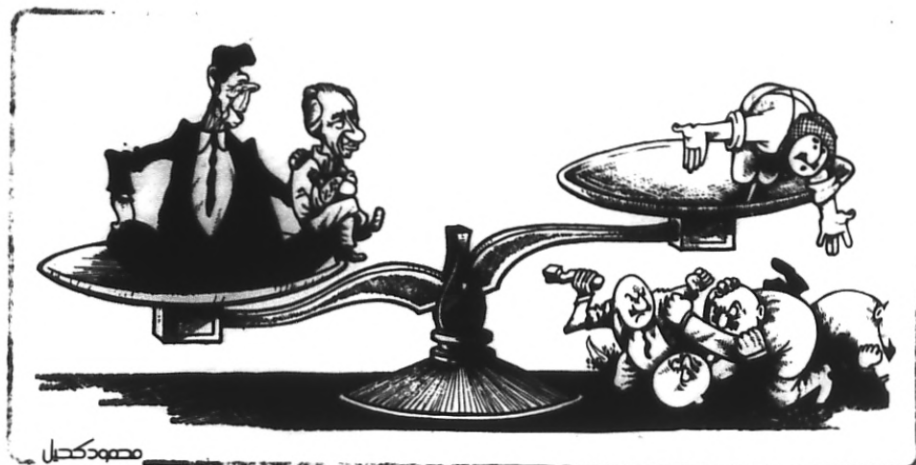
Sheikh Mohammed Hussein said in his Friday sermon: "This year, the 'orphaned Friday' witnesses a massacre against Palestinians in Lebanon. This massacre, like other massacres perpetrated against the Palestinian people, is part of the conspiracy aimed at liquidating the Palestinian cause."

Sheikh Hussein told *Al Fajr*: "My heart is pleased as I look at these crowds expressing loyalty to their religion and holy places. This is an indication of the degree of commitment the Palestinian people have."

In the courtyards of al-Aqsa, people sat in circles discussing current political issues. Outside the Dome of the Rock mosque, hundreds of women in traditional colourful costumes were praying and talking. It was easy to distinguish women from different regions — Galilee, the Triangle, Nabulus, Hebron, Beersheba — by their different dresses.

Palestinian families sat on the damp grass and began eating their pre-dawn breakfast, *Sohour*. Vendors roamed through the mosque squares selling *Ka'keh*, falafel, sandwiches, soft drinks, coffee and tea. Hundreds of boys and girls played with fireworks. A cold refreshing breeze blew through the trees, moving them to and fro.

WINDOW ON THE ARAB PRESS



Palestinian Cover for Arab Summit

Three years ago, at the 1982 Arab summit in Morocco, the Arab leaders issued what has since come to be known as the Fez resolutions. These resolutions concerned the Arab platform for political moves regarding the Israeli-Arab conflict. This was the Arab response to US President Ronald Reagan's 1982 peace plan.

A good many people believed then that the Arab leaders had laid the cornerstone for the strategy of joint Arab political moves. But during the past three years, Arab and Palestinian differences only increased. In the Palestinian arena, Palestinian fighters left Tripoli in Lebanon following battles in al-Bared and Baddawi refugee camps around the port city. The Arab arena, on the other hand, was the scene of many lamentable events. Jordanian-Syrian relations have never before been worse than they are now, not to mention Libyan-Arab differences and Syrian-Arab differences, which have been continuously escalating over the past few years. The Arab arena is also in a state of political and military void.

The call by the Moroccan King for an extraordinary Arab summit to discuss only the Palestinian cause is thus an attempt to rid the Arab arena of the tragic conditions. If the Arab leaders are to use the Palestinian cover for their forthcoming summit, then there is no doubt that most of them will not hesitate to attend, for the best they can do is repeat their well-known dogmas on the Palestinian cause. King Hassan does not want to discuss the Western Sahara, Iraq does not want to discuss the Gulf war, Syria does not want to discuss the situation in Lebanon, and finally, Libya is attempting to create Arab unity on the basis of a confederation. The Arab positions were most clear during the Ramadan siege of Palestinian refugee camps in Beirut. No Arab country moved to end the siege, and the most they did was issue statements expressing their sadness at what was happening.

PAGE TWELVE

Palestinian newspapers published in the occupied territories focused this week on the Syrian-sponsored truce agreement regarding the Palestinian camps in Beirut.

Al Fajr and *Al Sha'ab* strongly criticized the agreement which they felt was a capitulation to the Syrian line. They protested the fact that the National Salvation Front was addressed as the Palestinians' representative and rejected the call for disarming Palestinians in the camps.

Al Mithaq, on the other hand, supported the agreement and called it a "national agreement," as opposed to what it termed the "defeatist Amman agreement." All three papers interviewed scores of Palestinian personalities who supported their points of view.

Al Quds daily, the most widely sold newspaper in the occupied territories, expressed mild protest to the agreement but remained quiet about its various provisions.

The hijacking of the TWA airliner and the European tour planned by the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation also received front-page coverage in local papers.

If the purpose of convening the next Arab summit is to issue a statement similar to that issued by the Arab League Council which met in Tunis, then we advise the Arab leaders to search for other means to iron out their differences.

AL QUDS
June 22

Where Did the Initiative Go?

Reports that a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation intends to visit some European countries and Japan arouse many questions. Why has the political move been aborted? Why is the US administration so enthusiastic about efforts to reach a peaceful solution?

Murphy's meeting with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation in Amman never took place. One notices that the Israeli reply to Shultz's message and the Israeli 'peace plan' have defused the peace efforts.

We wonder if the hijacking of the American airliner was meant to divert attention to secondary issues. The beneficiaries are those who started the camps war. The objective is to distance the US from peace efforts. Syria and Amal are not far away from this incident (the hijacking), which tarnished the image of all Arabs in the world.

AL QUDS
June 24

No to Disarming Beirut Camps

It is only natural that the 'Salvation Front' sent a congratulating cable to Hafez Assad on his 'nationalist attitude to end the camps war.' The fabricated Front has completed its designated role. But it is not natural that this Front should bless the disarming of the camps under any circumstances. It has betrayed its own slogan that calls for protecting the camps by keeping them armed. The Front has openly sided with the Syrian regime, Amal and the Lebanese Army. What is more painful and amazing is the justification given by the Front's representative in the 'Coordination Committee', Mahdi Beislo, for disarming the camps. He stated that the camps' war has ended and that weapons will be placed on the front-line with Israel.

What a shameful justification! The disarming of the camps means crushing them and subjecting them to Syrian guardianship.

The features of the Damascus agreement are quite clear now. So is the role of the Front, which is now isolated. We are sure the call for national unity can now materialize.

AL FAJR
June 24

The Misleading Campaign

The true dimensions of the misleading campaign against the Damascus agreement by the Pal-

AL FAJR - Jerusalem Palestinian Weekly

estinian Right are becoming clear now. Any Palestinian who cares for the continuation of the national march should support this agreement. The Palestinian Right is trying through its misleading campaign to cover its surrealist approach. The rejection of the agreement means the deepening of differences within Palestinian ranks.

AL MITHAQ
June 24

The New Aggression

As soon as the Damascus agreement was signed, the bloody Syrian regime expanded its aggression to include the Sidon camps, this time through the Phalangists and Lahd militias.

This new aggression which has been going on for six days, reveals the true dimensions of the Damascus accord. This new aggression emphasizes the broad conspiracy against the Palestinian presence in Lebanon as a whole. The Syrian regime may think that the signing of the Damascus agreement has opened the way for the destruction of all Palestinian camps in Lebanon.

But this regime seems to forget the effect of the Palestinian national unity in thwarting conspiracies. The aggression on the camps has not ended yet. So the need for unity among Palestinian factions is now urgent.

AL FAJR
June 24

Destructions Set Right

Some people have recently been afflicted with a fit of moderation and strange peacefulness. They contend that the Palestinians should be satisfied with disarming the refugee camps in Beirut. They described this act as a glorious political and military victory and they still consider Amal a nationalist force, and think that the massacres were perpetrated by those who seek to embarrass Syria and strike down the Palestinian-Syrian-Lebanese alliance. Such are their strange theories.

These justifications arouse severe pain. Those who offer them are trying to absolve Assad's regime from the camp massacres. The disarming of the camps is actually a surrender to Amal gangs and the Syrian regime. It is an open invitation to commit more massacres and it also means offering more concessions. Palestinian lives should be sacred and above all discussions and theories. The central task is to safeguard the lives of Palestinians in Lebanon. The way to achieve this task is not via the offices of Abd al-Halim Khaddam or Nabil Berri. The way to achieve this is via Palestinian national unity.

AL SHA'AB
June 24

JUNE 28, 1985

Gov't Orders WB Charities to Deduct Tax from Employees

The Israeli Civil Administration ordered charitable organizations in the West Bank to deduct Israeli income tax from employees' wages in violation of Jordanian law, which is still applicable in the West Bank. Several organizations vowed to fight the order, calling it unfair and impossible to implement.

The Israeli Civil Administration distributed the order last May to more than 60 charitable organizations and societies throughout the West Bank, except for East Jerusalem informing them that they must begin deducting income tax by the middle of June. Most organizations wrote back to the Israeli authorities and requested exemptions.

According to Jordanian Income Tax Laws, specifically law number 25 issued in 1964, all religious, charitable and educational institutions are exempt from income taxes. The Israelis interpreted the law in a manner that allows them to collect income tax from employees who earn more than IS\$6,000 (US\$30) per month. This more or less applies to everyone since no one earns less than US\$30.

People earning more than IS\$6,000 will now have to pay five to eight percent tax on their income.

Several charitable organizations rejected the order saying it would eat up a large percentage of their net income because they will feel obliged to pay the tax on behalf of their employees, most of whom cannot afford to pay it themselves. Samiha Khalil, head of the *In'ash al-Ura* (Family Rehabilitation) Society in al-Bireh called the order "unfair and totally unacceptable." She argued that most of her em-

ployees are "special cases" with limited means and large families to support. "We could not ask them to pay a percentage of their small income to the military administration," she added. "We would rather see them spend it on their children and dependents." According to Khalil, her society was exempt from all taxes under Jordanian rule and after the Israeli occupation. She said she did not know why the Israelis are insisting on income taxes now. *In'ash al-Ura* was established in 1965 and carries out a number of cultural and social services. It employs 67 people.

Ramallah advocate Raja Shehadeh who represents *In'ash al-Ura* in legal cases told *Al Fajr* that the income tax order is in fact meant to tax the organizations themselves indirectly. "The Israeli authorities know well that the employees at these organizations cannot pay the tax themselves, and that the organizations will be compelled to pay it for them." He said that the law does give the Israelis the right to levy income tax, but that they should not do so for humanitarian reasons.

Ramallah tax expert Fu'ad Qasbi told *Al Fajr* that it is wrong in the first place for Israeli authorities to request payments from charities which, unlike commercial institutions, cannot write wages off as tax deductions because the organizations do not pay income tax themselves, he said. As for the employees, he reiterated Shehadeh's argument that it was morally wrong to require them to pay income tax, because their income is minimal and their services crucial.



"Are these the teachings of Imam Sa'id" reads graffiti at the Shatila camp. AFP photo.

Beirut Camp Entrances Reopened

The ceasefire agreement reached June 18 between Amal and Palestinian fighters in West Beirut's refugee camps of Barj al-Barajneh and Shatila continued to be held this week. The camp entrances were reopened after Amal militias pulled back. A

Lebanese police force was posted at camp entrances to supervise security. A joint Palestinian-Amal-Lebanese team is supervising the ceasefire agreement and trying to carry out its provisions.

Lebanese resistance attacks

on the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) continued this week in Lebanon as the Palestinian-Amal ceasefire agreement reached last week continued to hold.

Press reports from south Lebanon said a post run jointly by an Israeli army force and the SLA near the village of Tibnin inside the 'security zone' came under rocket attack early June 26. The reports said the post was directly hit and columns of smoke were seen spiralling up from the site.

The press reports said a joint Israeli-SLA force blocked off the road that links Tibnin to a nearby village and used sniper fire to disrupt traffic between the villages of Yatir and Kafra, a few kilometers southwest of Tibnin. The two villages were abandoned last week due to SLA shelling in the 'security zone.'

Foreign journalists in south Lebanon also reported that an Israeli unit entered and occupied a police station in the village of Rihan, south of Jezzine, which is still occupied by SLA Commander Antoine Lahad and Phalangist forces. The Israelis disarmed the Lebanese policemen and confiscated their ammunition, particularly hand grenades, reporters said. No further details on the raid were available.

Three Katyusha rockets were also fired at a South Lebanon Army post in the village of Beit Lief June 26. Israeli reports said the rockets were apparently fired from within the 'security zone.'

A roadside bomb exploded June 26 as an SLA patrol passed on a road in the central sector of the 'security zone.' No injuries were reported. An anti-tank rocket was also fired June 26 at another SLA position in the central sector.

Maltese Fever Diagnosed in Mughayer

Between 60 and 70 residents of Mughayer village (pop. 2500) near the Jordan Valley have contracted Maltese Fever in the last month. The bad news was announced by physicians from the Union of Medical Relief Committees in the occupied territories, a local volunteer team of doctors and nurses who carry out medical checkups in rural areas. The patients were either treated on the spot or referred to urban medical centres.

Signs of the epidemic were discovered June 7 during a regular Medical Relief Committee visit to Mughayer. Laboratory tests conducted on patients showed they had Maltese Fever, which is caused by drinking or eating non-pasteurized dairy products made from milk of diseased livestock.

Residents complained that health conditions in their village are deteriorating. The village has no medical clinic, and the Israeli health department does not send medical personnel to conduct regular checkups.

Maltese Fever has been discovered this year in several parts

of the West Bank particularly in Sur Bahar village, near Jerusalem, and in Jenin. Symptoms of the disease in its early stages include fever, weakness, chills and fatigue. Later the patient develops loss of appetite, nausea, sweat outbreaks, abdominal pain, a cough, a bronchial itch in the lungs, and joint pain similar to arthritis. If patients are not treated within 21 days, it becomes chronic, and will recur periodically throughout their lives. It is not, however, fatal. Medical flyers warn residents against drinking and eating unboiled milk and cheese and touching infected animals, especially if one has an open wound. Regular inoculations for livestock are also important.

Officials at the government veterinary office told *Al Fajr* they regularly inoculate animals to prevent them from contracting diseases like Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) which can cause Maltese Fever. Occasionally, they said, some of the animals do not get inoculated, making them susceptible to disease.

Mughayer residents used to make their livelihood from agriculture, but now rely more on raising sheep and goats in light of the fact that most of their farming land was confiscated by the Israelis. Mughayer residents believe the disease was caused by contaminated water which the sheep and residents drink. They said after the Israelis confiscated their land and wells, they were forced to use contaminated springs.

Al-Mughayer, which reportedly has the largest number of young village men in prison for political charges, is deprived of all kinds of government services. Residents' petitions to the Israeli authorities for a permit to bring electricity to the village, and the Jerusalem Electricity Company's willingness to provide power, were turned down without an explanation, while neighbouring villages received electricity. Village residents believe the Israelis are trying to punish them because of the high number of village youths who have been arrested on political charges.

Calendar

June 28

Art Exhibit: *Ceramic Studies*, by Issam Badr at the National Palace Hotel. 5:00 pm opening.

Theatre: *Grandfather* is not old, performed by the Theatre Arts company at the Nuzha/el-Hakawati Theatre in

East Jerusalem, 4:00 pm. Tel 02-288189. Also on June 29.

June 30

Music: *Small attempts*, an evening of songs by a children's choir at the Nuzha/el-Hakawati Theatre, in East Jerusalem, 4:00 pm. Tel 288189.

July 2

Slide Show: *Nicaragua* at the Nuzha/el-Hakawati Theatre. (Free) 5:00 pm.

The Samou'an Charitable Society and People of Samou' in conjunction with MARAM present an exhibition of TRADITIONAL SAMOU'AN RUGS The most exquisite weaving from homes and workshops throughout the village

Sun. June 30th - Thurs. July 4th
10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Maram, Hanania Building
Birzeit Road, Ramallah

Some pieces will be available for sale

WEEKLY REVIEW

June 20, 1985

SETTLERS RAID NABLUS; EVACUATED BY ARMY

Two Jewish settlers who attempted to enter Joseph's Tomb in Nablus were arrested. The Nablus military command declared the city a closed military zone following repeated attempts by settlers and yeshiva students to infiltrate Joseph's Tomb and sleep there, police sources said.

At 10:00 pm the Israeli army evacuated all the intruders from the city. The settlers returned to the nearby Balata refugee camp and attempted to spend the night there. Israeli soldiers ordered all settlers to leave the city and its suburbs, declaring the area a closed military zone.

Commenting on the army's move, a Jewish settler leader said: "There is no harm to the army or the Arabs if a Jew wants to sleep in one of Nablus's streets. If an Arab refugee from Jaffa is living in Nablus, then we (the settlers) are refugees from Nablus, because this area has belonged to the Jews since (the prophet) Yaakov bought it from the residents of Nablus."

ARMY TRUCK STONED NEAR RAMALLAH

An Israeli military vehicle was stoned as it passed by Jalazon refugee camp, north of Ramallah. An army officer chased several youths into the camp, but was unable to catch any of them.

June 21, 1985

UNRWA CUTS SERVICES TO REFUGEES

The United Nations Relief

and Works Agency (UNRWA), has taken a series of austerity measures likely to harm services for Palestinian refugees. The measures include a sharp cut in the agency's budget. Many projects will be affected by these cuts.

GAZAN GETS 53 DAYS, FINE FOR STONES

An Israeli military court in Gaza sentenced Khaled Talab, 20, of Nuseirat refugee camp in the Gaza Strip, to 53 days in jail, 2 years suspended and a \$100,000 fine for throwing stones at Israeli military vehicles and for partaking in a demonstration.

EXPLOSION KILLS DURA MAN

Khalil Abu Jweid, a 75-year-old resident of Khirbet Sikeh in Dura village, was killed by an anti-tank LAW rocket which exploded when he tried to dismantle it. No other details were available. The rocket may have come from a nearby Israeli military training camp.

June 23, 1985

EXPLOSION DESTROYS NABLUS HOME

An explosion which ripped through the home of Hamdan Ahmad Saleh, in the village of Kuful Hares in the Nablus area, has remained shrouded in mystery. The 4-room house was completely destroyed in the explosion, and Saleh's 14-year-old son was injured and hospitalised.

2 GAZANS JAILED FOR MEMBERSHIP

An Israeli military court in Gaza sentenced Mohammed Yusuf al-Ghole, 22, of Shate' refugee camp in the Gaza Strip, and Ima'li Abu Zeid, 20, of the nearby Jabalya refugee camp, to 1 year in prison each. Both were charged with membership in a Palestinian organisation and possession of weapons.

FREJ IN UK, ITALY

Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij, currently on an official visit to Britain, is scheduled to confer today with Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe and British Foreign Affairs Minister Richard Luce. Freij heads for Rome tomorrow, where he will meet with Pope John Paul II.

NEW HOSPITALS DIRECTOR

Dr Mohammed Sa'id Kamal, Director of the Mental Hospital in Bethlehem, is to be appointed as Director-General of West Bank hospitals. He will succeed the late Dr Shehadeh Shehadeh, who died six months ago.

NABLUS STUDENT GETS TOWN-ARREST

Ghassan Jalaweh, a fourth-year student at an-Najah National University in Nablus, was placed under town-arrest by Israeli military authorities. According to the order, Jalaweh, a resident of Nablus, will not be allowed to enter University premises.

June 24, 1985

PALESTINIAN MOTHERS DEMAND RELEASE OF SONS

Mothers of Palestinian detainees held at the Israeli prison of Afula near Haifa staged sit-in strikes in the refugee camps of



A Palestinian man who was beaten by Israeli soldiers on the 27th night of Ramadan. He was handcuffed and taken to Hadassah Hospital./AO photo.



Jerusalem police write out a ticket for a local vendor who was selling wares without a permit./MN photo.



One of the roads in progress to connect Israeli settlements in the West Bank. This road is in Shu'fat, north of Jerusalem./AO photo.

Rashidiyeh, al-Bass and Burj al-Shamali in south Lebanon to demand the release of their sons. The Committee of Detainees' Mothers sent messages to Arab leaders, members of the UN Security Council, the International Red Cross and humanitarian organisations calling on them to intervene with the Israelis to ensure the release of some 100 Palestinians held in the Israeli prison. The prisoners were transferred to Israel from the Anzar detention camp in south Lebanon a few months ago.

WORKERS DISCUSS JOINT PROBLEMS

Representatives of West Bank Workers' Unions met in Jerusalem with a visiting Canadian union delegation headed by

leaders of Workers' Unions in Canada. The Palestinians, headed by Shehadeh Minawi, briefed the Canadians on Israeli practices against workers and their unions in the occupied territories.

REFUGEE COMMITTEE DENOUNCES UNRWA CUTS

The Committee for Defending Five Refugee camps — Shu'fat, Kalandia, Jalazon, al-Ama'ri and Deir al-Ammar — issued a statement condemning recent austerity measures by UNRWA to cut its educational services to Palestinian refugees in the occupied territories and Arab countries. "These measures are an extension of UNRWA's previous measures to cut its health and educational services to (Palestinian) refugees, in the frame

of its comprehensive plan to liquidate the Palestinian cause," charged the statement.

SHU'FAT YOUTH SENTENCED

An Israeli military court in Ramallah sentenced Khader Yusef el-Rubi, 22, of Shu'fat refugee camp, to 6 months suspended and a \$250,000 fine for security offences.

June 25, 1985

SHU'FAT LAND GRABBED FOR SETTLEMENT ROAD

The municipality of Jerusalem recently confiscated the Abu Zreik lands in Shu'fat on the pretext of paving a new road linking Jewish settlements around Jerusalem. The municipality informed landowners of their intentions one month before the confiscation.

ARMY VEHICLE ATTACKED

An explosive device was tossed at an Israeli military vehicle as it passed east of al-Maghazi refugee camp in the Gaza Strip. No injuries or damages were reported, according to Israel Radio, which said soldiers and border police combed the area for nearly two hours.

SHAWWA REJECTS DISARMAMENT

Deposed Gaza Mayor Haj Rashad al-Shawwa said he rejects the principle of disarming Palestinian refugee camps in Beirut "because these camps need to defend themselves from dangers and the increasingly deteriorating situation in Lebanon." Shawwa

added, however, that he has no objections to the presence of Lebanese security forces in the camps "on condition that all warring parties are first disarmed."

FREED PRISONERS RECEIVE GIFTS

The Committee for the Rehabilitation of former prisoners distributed gifts to security prisoners released in the May 20 prisoner swap between Israel and the PFLP-GC. The gifts were donated by Jerusalem merchants.

STUDENTS CONDEMN DAMASCUS PACT

The Students' Youth Movement at the Modern Community College in Ramallah held a rally to condemn the "suspicious" ceasefire agreement signed in Damascus between the Shi'ite Amal Movement and the Palestinian Salvation Front. It said the agreement "is designed to contain the independent Palestinian decision... but Palestinian defenders in the camps are capable of thwarting Assad's plans."

SETTLERS PASS OUT THREATS

Jewish settlers living west of Ramallah have distributed leaflets in the past few days in the village of Deir Balout warning its residents "not to try to destroy" a monument erected near the village for an Israeli soldier killed in the area last month. Settlers claim he was killed by PLO men. The leaflets also warned residents "not to carry out any anti-settler activity in the area."

SENTENCES FOR 3 DURA MEN

Two residents of Dura



A small explosives charge went off at the Tel Aviv beach shortly before noon June 26. Israeli police said there were no injuries in the blast which rocked the beach area and sprayed many bathers with sand. Israeli police immediately evacuated the area, and rounded up more than 30 people for questioning. At least 10 of them are still being held. Israeli police combed the beach for more bombs, but did not find any.

In another incident on the same day, Israeli police sappers dismantled an explosives charge which was hooked to gas cylinders near a building in Asqalan. Israeli police rounded up more than 20 suspects.

town in the Hebron area, Ibrahim Khalil el-Sabbar and Mohammed Ahmad Ibrahim Itashlyeh, were sentenced to 2 years in prison and 2 years suspended by an Israeli military court in Ramallah on charges of membership in a Palestinian organisation.

The same court also sentenced Ali Mousa el-Rajoub from Dura to 4 months in prison and a \$100,000 fine on charges of violating a town-arrest order.

NABLUS CC HEAD QUILTS

Dhafer al-Masri, head of the Nablus Chamber of Commerce, has resigned his post to protest "conditions and circum-

stances preventing him from serving the industrial and commercial sectors." The Chamber council will hold a meeting next Saturday to discuss the resignation and the deteriorating economic situation in the city.

QALQILYA RESIDENTS CAN TRAVEL AGAIN

Israeli military authorities lifted a 4-month travel ban imposed on residents of Qalqilya.

4 Palestinian Kids Hurt in Mysterious Explosions

Four Palestinian boys were injured this week in a series of mysterious explosions in the Jenin and Nablus areas. According to Israel Radio, the explosions resulted from "suspicious objects" which the boys were playing with.

Ahmad Nayef Aref, 9, and his sister Sahar, 14, from the village of Jaba' in the Jenin district, were both critically wounded when a "suspicious object" went off as they were handling it, the radio reported. They were taken first to Jenin Hospital, and later moved to the

Israeli Afula hospital.

In the village of Beit Fourik, just east of Nablus, nine-year-old Munadel Mifteh Saleh and his eleven-year-old brother were wounded June 25 when a hand grenade they found and were playing with exploded.

Earlier this week, a 75-year-old resident of Dura in the Hebron area was killed by an anti-tank LAW rocket explosion. The man, according to Dura residents, bought the rocket among other metal scrap from Israelis. He was sorting out the scrap when the rocket exploded.

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by Daoud Kuttab

Medical care for Palestinian residents in Jerusalem's Old City is of paramount importance due to the lack of accessible health facilities inside the city walls. This medical care must be provided to the city's residents at reasonable rates because two-thirds of the Old City residents are not covered by any health insurance plan. The majority have taken refuge in the Hospice, a small hospital located within the walls of the Old City. Hospice was the only hospital that provided low-cost medical care for Old City residents. But Israeli health officials have now decided to close down the Hospice for good, and that means alternative health facilities must be found to serve this population. Medical and philanthropic officials, although quick to stress their determination to fight the decision to close the Hospice, have nevertheless worked very hard to encourage other private medical institutions outside the Israelis' reach to take up the slack.

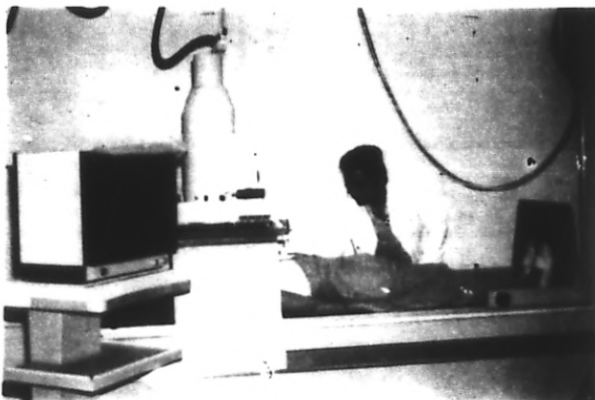
St Benedictos Polyclinic

One of these private institutes is St Benedictos Polyclinic, run by the Orthodox Society for Relief of the Sick. Established in 1926, the Orthodox Society has redoubled its efforts to serve patients since 1979, when it founded the polyclinic. Eight medical specialists come to the clinic at preset times and provide their services to Jerusalem patients at very low fees. The polyclinic building was provided by the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate, which also pays for utilities and telephone expenses. The clinic is run exclusively by the Christian Arab Society. Members of the society volunteer their time and efforts to raise funds for the polyclinic through bazaars, private contributions and fund-raising campaigns directed at European and American donor groups.

The polyclinic was recently the scene of a special celebration to inaugurate a new X-ray unit — the first in the Old City. The US\$120,000 unit was paid for by the American Community Development Foundation, contributed through the auspices of Greek Catholic Bishop Lutfi Laham. However, US\$30,000 still remains to be raised.

The Greek Orthodox Society for the Relief of the Sick was established in Jerusalem in 1926. Through the almost single-handed efforts of Melia Habibi, a group of Arab Christian women who founded the Society were able to fund a small outpatient clinic in the Old City. Very nominal fees were charged for medical services and prescriptions for the needy. In the 1940s, the Society

Polyclinic Provides Health Care for Jerusalem's Poor



Jerusalem patient X-rayed by the polyclinic's newest machine./MN Photo.

purchased a plot of land in the Qatamoun neighbourhood in West Jerusalem in order to build a convalescence home. They lost the land after the 1948 war, so they concentrated instead on the Old City of Jerusalem which was fast becoming overcrowded with fleeing Palestinians who took refuge inside the walls. "When so many Palestinians had no homes, no shelters and no clothes, the Society doubled its efforts and gave a hand to all those who needed help, especially the elderly," says a recent brochure issued by the Society.

New Blood

By the mid and late 1970s, the Society's original founders and main activists had become too old to continue. The Society's services began to go downhill. In 1979, however, a new president, Lillian Kassab, was elected, and new members — including, for the first time, men — joined the Society and gave it a boost. Among these was Dr Emile Jargoui, a pediatrician who has now been appointed to head the Society's Medical Committee. In 1979, Society members were able to convince Greek Orthodox Bishop Germanos to help them by donating new building space. An unused section of the Patriarchate's estate was found and converted into the polyclinic, which opened in 1979 under the name of Greek Orthodox Patriarch Benedictos. Bishop Germanos, who was enthusiastic about the project, helped out by buying basic furniture and initiating a fund-raising campaign that brought in a JD1000 starting budget. Six specialists agreed to make regular scheduled visits to the new polyclinic to see patients. In particular, the polyclinic's ear, nose and throat specialist was besieged with patients after the Israelis closed down the ear, nose and throat section in the Hospice hospital in 1980.

Relations between the Greek

Orthodox Patriarchate and the Society have been a little rocky in the past but are now apparently on the mend. Nora Kort, the Society's secretary, told *Al Fajr* that the Society agreed to give free medical services to the Greek Orthodox priests and nuns in return for the Church's donations of building space and funds for utilities. However, Kort noted, the Greek Orthodox Church contributed only US\$3000 for the X-ray machine while American and Catholic organisations contributed nearly US\$100,000. Nevertheless, Kort said, the present Patriarch Deodoros I has taken a more active role in supporting the polyclinic. During the May 26 inauguration of the new X-ray machine, Patriarch Deodoros I presented honorary Holy Sepulchre medals and special gold medals to a number of the Orthodox Society's most active members.

Medical Reactions

The polyclinic faced other problems as well — including local opposition and Israeli obstacles. Officials from the Orthodox Society say that a number of local medical and charitable societies were initially opposed to purchasing medical machinery as advanced as the X-ray machine. Dr Amin Khatib, head of the West Bank Union of Charitable Societies told *Al Fajr* that he was initially opposed to the Society's plan to acquire an X-ray machine. "At the time the polyclinic ordered the X-ray machine, we had plans to install a similar machine in the Arab Medical Centre, near Herod's gate in the Old City," Khatib said that when the Arab Medical Centre's X-ray unit was transferred to Ramallah instead, he reversed his stand and supported the polyclinic's purchase. "I simply don't like to see money used for duplicate work," he said.

Khatib also noted that he still objects to Society plans to open a

dental unit which will be funded with American donations raised by an Arab clergyman in the US, Father Hanna Sakaab. Khatib said that the dental unit will hurt local dentists' business. Dr Yasir Obeid, head of the East Jerusalem health department, vehemently disagrees with Khatib. "The polyclinic and all its efforts are a positive contribution to the Old City's needy," he told *Al Fajr*. Obeid said that the existing medical equipment in all of Jerusalem is old, and those who brought in the new machines should be congratulated. As for the dental unit, Obeid again objected to Khatib's argument. He said Palestinian society is weak at providing and seeking preventative health care. "The new dental unit, which will concentrate on serving students from all over Jerusalem, will vastly improve the situation since it is much better to deal with dental problems in their early stages," he said.

The Israelis, for their part, are not particularly keen on encouraging the Orthodox Society for the Sick to advance and expand. After losing its land plot in West Jerusalem after 1948, the Society purchased a four-acre plot in the Kalandia suburb of Jerusalem just before 1967. The Society intended to build a model convalescence home on the plot but so far applications for a building permit have been turned down. At first, Israeli officials said that the land plot is located in a so-called "green area" where building is forbidden. However, they did allow a number of residents to build private homes on the spot. Later they turned down the application on grounds that the area was too close to the airport and the sound level would be unbearable for patients. The Society has rejected the Israeli excuse and appointed an Israeli lawyer to work on getting a permit. An Israeli sound expert also surveyed the area and submitted a report that did not support the authorities' allegations.

As with most philanthropic organisations, the greatest problem facing the Orthodox Society is financial. Although the Society has succeeded in raising large one-time grants for medical machinery and specific projects, they are never able to cover the running costs with donations. Polyclinic officials estimate the monthly cost of running the polyclinic averages JD400. Although the Society has successfully completed a number of fund-raising projects, it has yet to find a sure way of guaranteeing the monthly running budget. The latest suggestion is that the Society start a children's nursery, the profits of which would go to pay the running costs of the polyclinic. As the hard economic situation increasingly forces women to work, this project may in the future help the Society to become self-supporting. Until then, members of the Orthodox Society for the Sick continue to seek new ways to keep the polyclinic open so that it can provide medical help for the needy Arab residents of Jerusalem's Old City.